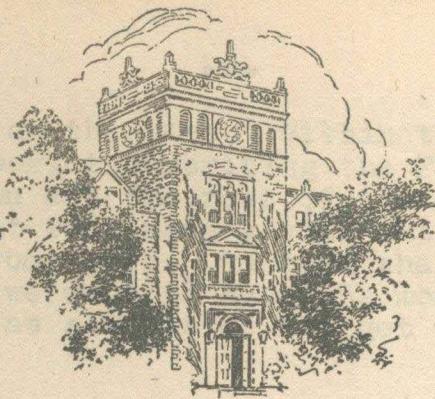


To the

FRONT



from

MUHLENBERG

February 22, 1946
Number 81

Dear Fellows:

For the last two years, as the numbers at the top of these pages have jumped from 28 to 81 we have been doing a lot of bragging and as we bat out the last of the series that will come from this typewriter we're glad that we are still able to brag. We're not boasting about ourselves (heaven forbid) but about a swell bunch of fellows we are proud to call Muhlenberg men; about you fellows who have brought honor and credit to Muhlenberg and to yourselves as you wore the uniform of your country; about a swell little College that right down through the years--come war or peace--has done a great job; and about all the grand people who are Muhlenberg and who have made Muhlenberg.

We don't mean to imply that these service letters will be discontinued. We're just telling you that your correspondent will be changed. Johnny Wagner (without the handle of lieutenant) has ended his service in the Navy after two years and one month in New York, Little Creek, Fort Pierce, and Bainbridge, and next week will take over his old duties in the Alumni Office. Elsie and I will confine our operations to the Public Relations Office and will keep our hands in the Alumni Magazine. Meanwhile, until you can get back to do it yourself, we'll add your welcome to the one we have ready for John.

Before we resume our bragging, we must inject a sadder note. It is with deep regret that we tell you of the death of Oscar F. Bernheim, treasurer of Muhlenberg and secretary of its Board of Trustees for thirty-nine years, one of those Muhlenberg immortals about whom this College has been built. Bernie suffered a stroke on January 27 and died at his home on February 14. Funeral services were held in the College Chapel on Monday. We could do plenty of bragging about Bernie and about the loyal and devoted service he gave to Muhlenberg. But Muhlenberg men are mindful of those things and in this letter they do not need repetition.

We're still bragging about the basketball team and we suspect Wagner will have the opportunity to do the same thing. In particular we are just a bit inflated because of that sensational victory over Navy by the score of 62 to 45--and that's no typographical error. It helped make up for the defeat Lafayette gave us the previous Wednesday. We can't help but tell you that Red Baldwin was out of that game with an injury he suffered when his arm went through a window at Rockne Hall during the Valparaiso game. The Lafayette score was 47 to 45 and we're hoping to have another chance at them in the playoffs for the championship of the Northern Division of the Middle Atlantic States. That should be due over the weekend of March 8 and 9.

Anyway, the record stands at 18 wins in 20 starts and that's close to being tops for any basketball team. It's the best ever chalked up by any Muhlenberg team up to this point in the season. The five games we can report include the victories over Valparaiso (which earlier in the same week defeated Doggie Julian's Holy Cross team) 61 to 55, over Navy, over Villanova 67 to 46, and over St. Joseph's of Philadelphia 58 to 49. Now there are just two more to go on the regular schedule, with Gettysburg in Allentown on Saturday night and with St. Francis in Madison Square Garden on Monday night. Then, of course, come the playoffs and perhaps some more of the big-time in Madison Square Garden. Anyway, we are hoping.

And to continue the bragging, we now have \$324,147 of the \$500,000 needed to build that new Field House. This week the Allentown campaign organization turned in \$297,336 and to that we added the \$40,000 Peter S. Trumbower '99 had given during the four years prior to his death, plus the \$4,811 interest his gifts had earned. There'll be some more from individuals and corporations in the Allentown area as the year moves along. But from here on out it's up to us as Alumni of the

College to get the rest on the line. Within the very near future you'll be receiving a booklet describing the Field House and also a pledge card. We know you and the rest of the Muhlenberg men will do the right thing--and that will mean giving until you get a real personal satisfaction out of your gift. We need that Field House--as you know only too well--and we want to have the money available so that we can start building just as soon as we can get our hands on the necessary material.

By the time John takes over as your correspondent, he'll be able to tell you more about the semester that begins March 1. Right now we can say this much--we really will be jammed and it's a safe guess that we will have approximately 500 civilian students plus nearly 150 Navy men. Haps is too busy these days to tell us just who of the old boys are coming back for the new term, but there are many familiar faces around the campus these days and that's what we like to see.

Don't let our talk about being jammed up scare you away. We'll always have room for you fellows who were here at Muhlenberg and we are looking for you to come back. Incidentally, the Navy will be here only until June 30, the end of the new term, and that will give us more dormitory space beginning this summer. And then too, this temporary housing project we are getting from the government will be ready.

We want to invite you fellows in the Philadelphia area to come to the alumni meeting at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel next Tuesday night, February 26. It will be a rousing party--the biggest and best ever held in the Philadelphia area. If you can make it, call Walt Reisner, Rittenhouse 9983 and tell him you'll be there so that he can make the necessary reservations. If you can at all make it, take a tip and be there.

Well, this really has been a week for visitors. Among the first was BUD BOSSICK '43, a civilian after more than a year and a half in the European theatre. He and PETE GORGONE '43, who incidentally is taking some special courses on the campus, had quite a get-together and even Bud accused Pete of getting fat. Bud just missed a ride home on the SS MUHLENBERG VICTORY. According to HAROLD KNAUSS '42, also just back, he was lucky because the good old ship developed engine trouble and its sailing was postponed twice. Harold, who was in port at Le Havre when the trouble developed, took plenty of ribbing about it. Overseas for more than a year, Knauss won his battle stars in the Rhineland and Central Europe and also came home with the Combat Medic badge.

BERNIE THOMAS '40 is set to take over his duties as class correspondent once again. He was discharged from service in January after nearly four years of it. All of his assignments were in this country, including two years as classification specialist at Gunter Field, Ala., six months at Harvard in an ASTP unit, and six months as vocational counselor at Fort Dix. Then there's VICTOR IACOCCA '43, one of the boys who will be back on the campus on March 1 to resume his pre-medical work. He had well over a year in the Pacific, including action through most of the campaign in the Southern Philippines. His work was as a surgical technician with the 37th Field Hospital.

It looked like old days to see JOE ROEDIGER '43 walk in, but this time with his wife who, like Joe, was a lieutenant, junior grade. Both of them are out of service, Joe as of February 23. There's nothing like the Submarine Service according to our New Yorker and he'll back that up with all the tales you want of his three war patrols off the coast of Japan on the USS TIGRONE. He took part in the Okinawa campaign and in the Third Fleet operations against Japan. And it was just as good to see two other Navy men, ENSIGN BILL DEISSLER '43, who has just completed duty on the USS TOWNER, and JOHNNY PSIABI '43 (lieutenant, junior grade) whose action was in the Pacific. Neither of them have been discharged up to this point. Bill joined his ship in the latter part of 1944 and has been with her ever since as she travelled some 65,000 miles through the Pacific with an assortment of stops that would fill at least half a page. Johnny, who was paymaster and supply officer of the LCS Group 11, was in Tokyo Bay with the Third Fleet in the original occupation of the Jap homeland. Pearl Harbor, Saipan, and Okinawa are also written in his log. Another Navy man we saw in

civilian clothes again was LES ZETTY '43 who went into the reserves on January 26. Les was completing his operational training when the end of the war came along. His most recent station was in a hospital in Jacksonville, recuperating from injuries received in an automobile accident.

All set for the new semester, SGT. JOE FLEISCHMANN '45 has been floating around here for the last few days. He went overseas in October 1944 and won his combat stars in Northern France, Central Europe, and the Rhineland. It didn't take him long after his discharge on February 1 to get back here to the campus to register for the new assignment he is giving himself. Then there is DONALD HAUSMAN '36, who was with the units that provided the air defense of Paris from the time the city was liberated and who earlier saw other action in France. Don came home early in January and this week started work for the Lehigh Spinning Co. in Allentown. We've seen very little of GEORGE FROUNFELKER '41 in recent years, but he did drop in the other day in his civvies and we heard a little about his service, which included duty overseas with a military police unit. For the past year, however, he was in the Information and Education Center at the Army Service Forces Training Center at Camp Lee, Va. where he received a commendation for his outstanding work. ALFRED AYRES '38, who won his battle stars in the Rhineland and Central Europe, is back in Bowers and thinking seriously about going to law school. He was regimental mail clerk with the 253rd Infantry and didn't mind handling these letters. BILL STACKHOUSE '45, who is back from the Pacific but still in service, spent a part of Saturday afternoon with us. He expects to be discharged in time to get back to College next September.

I believe we forgot to tell you that LT. CMDR. ART CHATTEN '29 is on terminal leave and is planning to get back to civilian duties as a clergyman within the very near future. DICK HOLBEN '42 is back--and if you don't believe it you should see the picture that hit the Society pages of the Morning Call last Sunday. We have the clipping here in the Alumni Office. Ask to see it the next time you drop in. We also saw YAR CHOMICKY '45 and he too is planning to hit the books at Muhlenberg come March 1. Another one of the boys we just saw a minute ago is TRACY STORCH '45, as big as ever and all set to get down on the books. He and his wife are among the hundreds who are apartment hunting in Allentown. Until they get set they are bunking with Tracy's brother, Phil, just home from the Pacific where he served with the Marines.

And now we'll clean up the mail bag so that Johnny Wagner can get a fresh start--and also so that we can complete our usual four-pager. The mail has been a bit thin the past two weeks and, as more and more of you fellows finish your assignment, it probably will get thinner.

A good many of the boys, however, are still overseas. Among them is that stalwart Marine (he had his first training in our V-12 unit) RAY NIES '45, who is now in Sasebo, Japan. Recently he ran into MORRIS QUINT, who played a bit of football for Muhlenberg in the V-12 days. HANK BAIETTI, of basketball fame (we hope he'll be back next year) is stationed just three miles away and Nies, himself, is with the outfit that includes LT. MATT NICKELS and PFC. TOM MALONE, both V-12 boys. Nearby are LT. MOE SNYDER and PFC. BILL OISTER, more V-12'ers. The thing that concerns Ray the most is coming home. He says he has had enough sightseeing in Japan. T/SGT. RALPH BAGGER '45 feels the same way about it and says Yaka (Okinawa) is becoming more boresome every day. He's personnel sergeant major in the prison office of the Okinawa Prisoner of War Camp No. 1. LT.(jg) GEORGE GRUBE '44 had an interesting experience out in the Pacific when he became commanding officer of the LCI (L) 636 about two weeks after he went on board. He took command the day after the ship left San Diego and relieved his commanding officer who became the executive officer. Just before he left the West Coast he ran into SWEDE SWENSON, RAY ZANEY, and HARVEY BLEILER and he figures that was a pretty good record for one week.

ENSIGN HERB KUMMEL V-45 is fighter direction officer and photographic officer on the USS SIBONEY, a carrier that apparently is at home at Cavite in the Philippines. Before he left the States he bumped into FRANK KELLY in San Francisco and when he reached Pearl Harbor he found HARRY GEARHARDT waiting for him. Later Kelly and RED LANYON

joined the party at Pearl Harbor, Lanyon just before heading for China on the GLOUCESTER BAY. BOB DOLL V-44 has also reported that he is at Sasbo Bay and with that note in this letter he can expect Ray Nics to look him up. LT. KERMIT KISTLER '38, who has been in service on land and at sea for two years and who is now in the United States Public Health Service Dispensary in Washington, expects to become a civilian by March 1 and then will take two years of work on eye diseases and eye surgery in New York.

For the benefit of the V-12 men, Lt. Elliot Freeman, who was medical officer of our unit after he came back from the Pacific, is in private practice at 129 North Painter Ave., Whittier, California; Lt. Stan Kuffel is hanging out with the State Educational Information and Guidance Service at Fargo, North Dakota; and Lt. Joseph Puvogel, who left the Good Ship Muhlenberg just a few weeks ago, is going to begin graduate work at the University of Michigan in a week or two.

From the States we have heard from T/4 ALTON CLAUSER '35 whose medical unit was moved from the Ashburn General Hospital at McKinney, Texas, to the Army Medical Center at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. He should be discharged any day now. After 22 months in Guam, Leyte, Ie Shima, and Okinawa, LT. LEN HODGKINSON '36 has headed home. We heard from him when he was in Manila waiting to board a plane for Hickam Field. MAJOR ALBERT GILMOUR '37 is on terminal leave, but he liked Lorton, Va. so much that he has decided to make that his permanent address. WALLACE DEEBEL '29 also is on terminal leave and is back on the job teaching math in the high school in Roselle, N.J. Teaching has again claimed T/3 FREDERICK KRAUSE '34, who is back on the old job in Auburn, N.Y. SGT. FORRESTER PIERCE '43 will be stuck in Europe for another month or two with a labor supervision unit. EVAN BARTLESON '37 also writes to say that he is a civilian living in St. Louis, Mo.

And here's just a little more from abroad and from the States. CPL. CHARLIE WAGNER '47 is in Shanghai with the 129th AAC detachment and he's anxious to see any Muhlenberg men who may be close to him. He's still hoping to be back on the campus next September, even though he admits his prospects at the moment don't seem too bright. NORMAN MILES '35 has returned to civilian life as treasurer of the Brown and Bailey Co. of Philadelphia. CHARLIE VANREED '44, who expects to be a civilian by September, recently visited with JOHNNY AMMARELL '41 and the latter's wife in Richmond, Va. where Johnny is still busy with the FBI. Charlie is teaching mess supervision to a group of future mess supervisors in Richmond. DONALD GEYER V-44, in the Training Aids Library at Camp Pendleton, expects to do the same kind of work--make educational films--when he returns to civilian life. He's anxious to help Muhlenberg build up an audio-visual aids department. BILL VITAN V-45 is all registered to start his work at Muhlenberg on March 1.

It seems particularly appropriate that the last letter to be reported in this chapter of Muhlenberg correspondence comes from LT. WILMER CRESSMAN '42, who has faithfully kept us in touch with his world travels. His last letter is from Hiro Wan, Japan and it is filled with his usual brilliant and graphic descriptions.

Well, that's it. This assignment--one of my greatest privileges--is finished. You'll be hearing next from John Wagner.

Elsie and Kitty and the faithful group of ladies who are members of the College Auxiliary know how grateful I am to them for their help.

And now to all of you--thanks for your letters! Thanks for the kind things you have said. Thanks for your loyalty to Muhlenberg. Thanks for the personal friendship so many of you have shown. I'll always count it a privilege to be numbered among your real Muhlenberg friends.

Best of luck to all of you--and here's hoping we'll be seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Gordon

Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office